

New Jersey

The Official Newsletter of the  
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

# Fire Focus



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
James E. McGreevey  
Governor

Issue #1 - 2003

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner

## Governor McGreevey Signs Executive Order Creating Fire Service and Safety Task Force

In an effort to improve safety at New Jersey's fire departments, Governor James E. McGreevey signed an Executive Order creating the Governor's Fire Service and Safety Task Force. "The tragedy of September 11th demonstrated the need to have greater cooperation and superior channels of communication between our fire departments," said McGreevey. "Better communication and training will ensure the ability of our fire departments to respond to emergency situations and effectively protect New Jersey's families."

The Task Force is being charged with examining how fire departments can foster greater cooperation and improve interdepartmental communication with State, County and Federal Agencies in order to respond to a major disaster; to examine the current delivery of fire protection and the operational readiness of New Jersey's Fire Service; and to develop and recommend a Statewide plan to affect a more efficient, more economical and safety sensitive operation.

Specifically, the Task Force will study the following aspects of fire department performance: Interdepartmental communication, massive response/major emergency response, and training. The Task Force will also consider making recommendations with regard to potential remedies, including interdepartmental training exercises to prepare for major emergency response; group purchasing; methods and technology to improve interdepartmental communication; and



*New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey (left) shakes hands with State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo (right) immediately after the Governor signed an Executive Order on March 31st creating the Governor's Fire Service and Safety Task Force. Between McGreevey and Petrillo is Susan Bass Levin, Commissioner of the State Department of Community Affairs, whose department houses the Division of Fire Safety. The fire helmet at the bottom of the photo, along with turnout gear, was presented to Governor McGreevey by Director Petrillo to wear when the Governor responds to fire and emergency scenes.*

departmental efficiency studies. The Task Force is empowered to request assistance from any department, division, office of agency of the state.

Larry Petrillo, State Fire Marshal and the Director of the Division of Fire Safety, will chair the Task Force. Members will include the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, as well as the presidents of the NJ Firemen's

Benevolent Association, the New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs Association, the Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Firemen's Association, the New Jersey State Association of County Fire Marshals and the League of Municipalities.

(Continued on page 7)

# Division of Fire Safety Officials Examine State of Nightclub Safety in New Jersey

Division of Fire Safety officials are in the process of reviewing State regulations pertaining to the safe operation of nightclubs to determine if additional safeguards may be necessary. The study was ordered by Governor James E. McGreevey and Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Susan Bass Levin after 119 people lost their lives and 39 more were left in critical condition as a result of recent nightclub tragedies in West Warwick, Rhode Island, and Chicago, Illinois. State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo, who said he was stunned by the news of the disasters, gathered his top staff together to conduct a thorough review of existing statutes as one step in preventing a similar tragedy from occurring in New Jersey. "Every experienced firefighter knows that fatal fire incidents can happen at any time. Even though New Jersey's fire prevention and protection regulations are presently among the strictest in the nation, we want to do everything in our power to avoid a repetition here of these unfortunate tragedies." Petrillo also ordered inspectors in his Division to step up their nightclub inspections and to conduct additional spot-checks to keep close tabs on nightclubs. The Division has 30 inspectors on staff who are responsible for enforcing the fire code in 100 municipalities in the State. The fire code in the balance of New Jersey's municipalities is enforced by personnel of Local Enforcing Agencies (LEA's).

Bill Kramer, the Division's Deputy Director, said that nightclub owners have been generally cooperative with the Division's efforts to insure safety. "The owners realize they can be fined for violations such as exceeding occupancy limits, blocked exits and unlit exit signs. They also realize that extensive lawsuits can result from being found at fault in the event of a fire disaster," said Kramer.

The Division made a number of common sense recommendations to nightclub owners to make it less likely for a fire tragedy to occur:



*Division of Fire Safety administrators meet to discuss the possibility of strengthening regulations pertaining to nightclub safety. From left to right are George Miller, Chief of the Bureau of Code Enforcement; State Fire Marshal Larry Petrillo; Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Fire Department Services Rolf Maris (seated with back to camera); Deputy Director Bill Kramer; and Supervisor of Inspections Lou Kilmer.*

- \* Make sure that your fire extinguishers are well maintained and that your staff has been trained in the proper use of them;

- \* Do not exceed the lawful number of occupants as specified on the assembly permit; and

- \* Select building materials and furnishings of flame-retardant materials, particularly when remodeling.

Club owners who have questions regarding suitable fire prevention practices should contact the State Fire Marshal's office at (609) 633-6071.

The Division also offered the following safety tips for the patrons of nightclubs:

- \* Upon entering a club, patrons should make a mental note of where the exits are located. Many victims in a panic situation pass several exits while trying

to leave because of the natural tendency that people have to try to exit through the door that they entered. By becoming familiar with the exit locations, people are more likely to be able to know where to go if visibility suddenly decreases because of dense smoke.

- \* Patrons who notice exits blocked with items such as plants, tables, chairs or decorations should notify the club manager to have the obstacles removed.

- \* Don't panic. This is a crucial step to survival. Many deaths occur not because of smoke inhalation or burns, but because people trample each other to death. Adding to the panic reduces everyone's chances for survival. Remaining calm and being prepared, on the other hand, provides an advantage in the event of an emergency.

Nightclub owners who need more information about fire safety can call the Division offices at (609) 633-6110.

# Governor McGreevey & Commissioner Levin Campaign for Holiday Fire Safety at Dempster Center

New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey, accompanied by Susan Bass Levin, Commissioner of the State Department of Community Affairs (DCA), dropped by the Dempster Fire Training Academy in Mercer County on December 17th to campaign for one of his favorite causes: fire safety during the holiday season. Despite temperatures in the low-20's, Governor McGreevey spoke at length about his concerns for a safe holiday season, and invited Mercer County Fire Officials to review a list of specific holiday fire safety tips for the audience and media representatives. The Governor then joined the crowd in witnessing what has become an annual tradition at the Dempster Fire Training Academy: the burning of an actual Christmas tree in the well-controlled and carefully supervised confines of the Fire Academy's burn building to vividly show how intensely a Christmas tree can ignite when placed in an unsafe situation.

"Demonstrating how suddenly a Christmas tree can be consumed by flames after making contact with a portable electric heater should encourage us all to take extra safety precautions this holiday season so our loved ones will be



*Flanked by members of the Lawrence Township and City of Trenton Fire Departments and other fire officials, New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey (at podium) emphasizes the importance of fire safety during the holiday season. At center is Susan Bass Levin, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and at front right is Lawrence Petrillo, State Fire Marshal and Director, Division of Fire Safety. At extreme right is John Kubiliwicz, Administrator of the Dempster Fire Training Academy and coordinator of the annual Christmas tree burning event.*

safe," said Governor McGreevey. The Governor thanked the Fire Officials for organizing what he called "a valuable public service safety event."

DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin said "Few traditions are more

beautiful than Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza celebrations, but we want to do everything we can to make sure that none of our celebrations ends in tragedy. Each year, America's emergency rooms treat about 10,800 people for holiday celebration-related injuries such as falls, cuts, shocks, burns and fires."

State Fire Marshal and Fire Safety Director Lawrence Petrillo gave more safety advice, telling onlookers to:

- \* Keep candles, matches and lighters away from children;
- \* Make sure your holiday lights have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories;
- \* Check your smoke detectors to make sure they're working properly and replace the batteries if necessary; and
- \* Keep a fire extinguisher handy and close to your tree.

This year's event was arranged, as it has been in the past, by the staff of the Dempster Fire Academy. Academy Administrator John Kubiliwicz said he was glad to help keep the holiday season "safe and happy."



*Left: Governor James E. McGreevey and DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin, along with State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo and FMBA President Bill Lavin, witness the explosive intensity of a dried Christmas tree bursting into flames after it was deliberately set afire. The safety demonstration has become an annual event that encourages citizens to be especially mindful of fire safety during the winter holiday season. Other holiday fire safety tips offered at the demonstration were provided to local news media for broadcast as public service announcements.*



# *WABC Launches 2003 Kickoff Ceremony for 5th Successful Fire Safety Campaign; Honors DFS and FDNY for Supporting Program*

*"Fire... it kills without regard to age, race, or sex. And it kills quickly. Each year, thousands of people lose their lives or sustain injuries in fires. Many of these fatalities could have been prevented through proper fire safety education and smoke detectors. That is why ABC-7 implemented the Operation 7: Save A Life Campaign."*

WABC-TV News Anchor Bill Ritter

On January 16, 2003, WABC-TV hosted a high-energy ceremony at the Tavern on the Green restaurant in New York City's Central Park to kick off their *Operation 7: Save A Life Campaign* - a program that helps reduce the number of fire-related deaths, injuries and property damage in the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. For the fifth consecutive year, smoke detectors will be distributed at no cost through the program to the needy. The Kidde Corporation, a manufacturer of smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, has provided 33,000 smoke detectors for that purpose.

In attendance at the event were representatives of corporate sponsors and supporting organizations: the New York Presbyterian Hospital; the Tri-State Jeep Dealers Association; and the New York Lottery. Representatives of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and the New York City Fire Department were also in attendance to receive special awards for their assistance and dedication in making the program a success over the years.

Bill Ritter of the WABC-TV Channel 7 Eyewitness News Team served as Master of Ceremonies and opened with a story about an elderly Dover Township woman who was asleep in her mobile home a month ago when her smoke detector went off in the early hours of the morning. She heard it, got up, and got out of her home. Ritter said the smoke detector had been given to her by the Dover Township Fire Department a month before, as part of the *Operation 7 Save-A-Life Program*, and that it saved her life. "This incredibly worthwhile program works," said Ritter.



*Bill Ritter of the WABC-TV Eyewitness News Team states his conviction that the Operation 7: Save A Life Program really works. Ritter served as Master of Ceremonies for the 2003 Program Kickoff Ceremony.*

Ritter thanked the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety for bringing the story to WABC's attention, "because those are the kinds of stories that make this program so worthwhile." He said that over the course of the last five campaigns, over a quarter of a million smoke detectors have been distributed in the Tri-State area, FREE - to people who otherwise couldn't afford them, and that every year, there's been a story of at least one person being saved, and there are probably others that have been saved that we do not know about.

The fire safety campaign for the year 2003 also places strong emphasis on carbon monoxide detection. 2,000 people a year die from carbon monoxide poisoning - a separate statistic from the 4,000 people who die in fires annually. Ritter said that new legislation mandates that every new home built in New York must have a carbon monoxide detector, and every home or apartment that is sold in New York must have a carbon monoxide detector as well. Ed LeBlanc of Kidde noted that the technology of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors has improved dramatically over the last couple of years.

Bill Ritter acknowledged program sponsors by saying "Without their support, this would all not be happening." Ritter then introduced his boss, WABC's President and General Manager Tom Kane, who said "At Channel 7, we do the news and everything else you see on TV, but we also have a platform to make a difference, and the best way we serve the community is through this program. We don't know exactly how many lives have been saved, but we do know that lives have been saved." He thanked everybody for their support and said he looked forward to another successful campaign.



*Tom Kane, the President and General Manager of WABC-TV, registers his support for the Operation 7: Save A Life Program. Kane thanked everyone who helped make the program so successful over the past five years.*

The next speaker was Chief Frank Cruthers of the New York City Fire Department, who said "Prevention is and always has been a critical component of any fire department's strategy. During the winter, we usually get most of our more serious fires. Public fire safety education has contributed tremendously to the reduction of the number of fires, and smoke detectors are a major factor in the reduction of fire fatalities and injuries. In 2002 here in New York, we had 98 fire fatalities. While it's not a number we should celebrate, it's the first time since 1927 that the number has been less than 100. When we do have a fatal fire, it is extremely rare that we find that there was a properly operating smoke detector. This program has certainly helped to make the Tri-State area much more firesafe."

Ritter then introduced New Jersey's Fire Safety Director Larry Petrillo, who told the gathering that it was an honor to be here with great people who we see on the news all the time. Petrillo extended greetings to everyone on behalf of Governor James E. McGreevey and Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Susan Bass Levin. He thanked the program's sponsors and WABC for doing such a great job of getting the word out about fire safety. Director Petrillo offered some statistics: In NJ, of the over 4,500 structural/residential fires that occurred in our state last year, operating smoke detectors were present about 48.5% of the time, but conversely, smoke detectors were NOT present about 51.5% of the time. *Operation 7*, he said, gives us the opportunity to impact on that 51.5% and to help replace smoke detectors that may be worn out and unreliable. Petrillo also mentioned that Governor McGreevey has agreed to sign legislation making carbon monoxide detectors mandatory in newly purchased homes.



*New Jersey Fire Safety Director Larry Petrillo tells audience that Governor James E. McGreevey has agreed to sign legislation requiring carbon monoxide detectors to be present in all homes when they are sold.*

The audience then viewed a compilation videotape on carbon monoxide poisoning produced by WABC that aired on network TV on January 27th. The video contained moving interviews with people who had lost family members to carbon monoxide poisoning, and information on the dangers, characteristics and prevalence of carbon monoxide. The

videotape's message was that every home should be equipped with at least one carbon monoxide detector. Several public service announcements produced by WABC-TV on fire and carbon monoxide safety were included in the videotape.



*Ed LeBlanc of Kidde tells audience that they can get a fire extinguisher and a smoke detector for "less than the price of a bottle of scotch."*

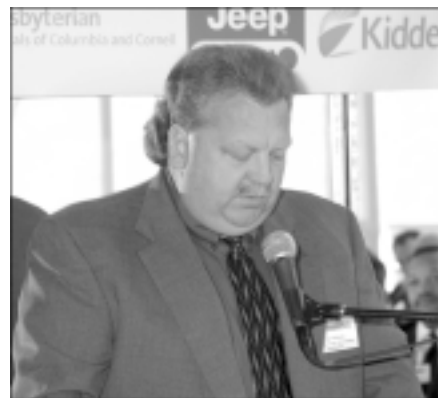
use," he said. He praised WABC for their remarkable commitment to raising the awareness of the public about the fire problem.

The next person to be introduced was the Director of the Hoerst Burn Center at the New York Presbyterian Hospital, Dr. Roger Yerp. Yerp thanked Bill Ritter, who in addition to his work



*Dr. Roger Yerp of the New York Presbyterian Hospital.*

on the *Operation 7 Save-A-Life Program*, contributed to the production of a Burn Center video called *Teamwork*, which educates people on burn prevention and how to take care of burns. With WABC's production assistance, Ritter narrated



*Eric Nelson, President Chrysler-Jeep Advertising Association*

the video, which has been nationally recognized for its educational and preventive value. Dr. Yerp said he was proud to be here as a member of the team and thanked everyone for their support.

Eric Nelson, President of the Chrysler-Jeep Advertising

*(Continued on following page)*

# ABC-TV Launches 2003 Smoke Detector Distribution Program

*(Continued from preceding page)*

Association, said that backing the *Save-A-Life Program* is high on his Association's list of priorities. He said his organization was delighted to partner with Channel 7, and if they can save just one life, they'll feel that they've done a job. He thanked the other corporate partners - WABC-TV for making the public aware of fire safety; and Kidde for providing an "unbelievable number" (250,000) of smoke detectors over the years.

New York Lottery Director Margaret DeFrancisco said that after watching WABC-TV's video production, she intends to go home and buy a carbon monoxide detector, because "we have a fire extinguisher, and we have smoke detectors, and I don't drink scotch." DeFrancisco was referring to Ed LeBlanc's earlier comment in the program that a fire extinguisher and a smoke detector cost about the same as a bottle of scotch.



*Margaret DeFrancisco  
Director, New York State Lottery*

Presentations of glass plaques were then made to both the FDNY and the Division of Fire Safety. The inscription read "ABC honors the Fire Department of New York and the Division of Fire Safety for their continued support of *Operation 7 Save-A-Life* over the past five



*WABC-TV News Anchorman Bill Ritter (right) presents a beautiful solid glass plaque to New Jersey Fire Safety Director Larry Petrillo (left). The plaque was presented as a token of ABC's appreciation to the Division of Fire Safety for their support of the Operation 7: Save A Life Program for the past five years, and for the Division's assistance in distributing New Jersey's share of 250,000 free smoke detectors.*

years and their commitment to distribute over 250,000 smoke detectors in the Tri-State area. Chief Frank Cruthers accepted an identical award on behalf of the FDNY, saying "We look forward to many more years of successful cooperation." Accepting the Division of Fire Safety's award was Director Larry Petrillo, who thanked WABC for the award and acknowledged the assistance of his brother and sister firefighters from New Jersey for their help in distributing and installing the smoke detectors. Petrillo also complimented the program sponsors - Kidde, the New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Tri-State Jeep Dealers Association, the New York Lottery, the New York City Fire Department, and New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey and DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin for their brilliant records of support of fire prevention.



*Chief Frank Cruthers of the New York City Fire Department expresses his gratitude to ABC and the corporate sponsors of the Operation 7: Save A Life Program.*



*Chief Bob Hill (left) of the Roselle Fire Department and FMBA President Bill Lavin (center) discuss the impact that 250,000 smoke detectors have had in the Tri-State area over the past five years with Kidde Executive Ed LeBlanc (right).*



# Governor Creates Fire Service and Safety Task Force

*(Continued from front page)*



*Clockwise from bottom right: Governor McGreevey signs Executive Order creating Fire Service & Safety Task Force; DFS Deputy Director Bill Kramer presents firefighting helmet and shirt to the Governor; Governor McGreevey greets Bill Lavin (left), President of the NJ Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association and Task Force member, as State Fire Marshal/Task Force Chairman Larry Petrillo (right) looks on; and (top) Governor McGreevey discusses Task Force Operations with DCA Commissioner and Task Force member Susan Bass Levin.*



# *NJ USAR Task Force 1 Maintains High State of Preparedness*

In a national atmosphere of heightened terror alerts, New Jersey's elite Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 Team continues to train and prepare rigorously for the possibility of sudden disaster. Last October, approximately 150 team members assembled in Wildwood for their annual drill and conducted training evolutions at two separate "disaster" sites: an in-town building whose collapse was triggered by a hurricane and an abandoned concrete plant on the outskirts of town. In simulated rescue scenarios, a number of "victims" were strategically placed in secret places that were known only to a few of the team members. The balance of the team was then called on to utilize its arsenal of skills to locate the "victims." At the in-town structural collapse location, the training scenario was that there were five "victims" who were caught in a secondary collapse of the building - two gas company employees, two task force members and one bystander. The site was first checked for safety by structural and hazmat personnel. Then team members using various tools and techniques that generally aren't available to first responders from a normal fire department, such as fibre optic search cameras, acoustic devices, and specially trained canines, searched through the rubble to locate the "victims" before developing a rescue plan. Generally, a canine will indicate the area as close as it can get. Search tech specialists then try to pinpoint the victims' exact locations and determine the condition of the victims and the positions they're in. Then, a rescue specialist works in conjunction with a structural expert to try to enable medical personnel to assess the victim. The rescue area is then shored and stabilized prior to the start of the extrication process. A similar scenario was staged at the concrete plant training location.

The teams are not just comprised of firefighters, but also of various specialists from diverse backgrounds, such as police and doctors. This results in a real abundance of skills that are brought to every disaster. On the first of the three training days, for example, one of the doctors performed a simulated amputation using a leg of lamb, and State Fire Safety Director Larry Petrillo served as one of USAR's Technical Information Specialists. The majority of the task force members assisted in the rescue efforts in New York on 9/11.

Watching the team members at work is an impressive experience. They transmit a feeling of complete competence and expertise. Their approach is no nonsense, but at the same time, they're friendly, mutually helpful and thoroughly professional. Their presence in Wildwood drew large numbers of bystanders, all of whom who watched in considerable awe as the teams went about their business.



*The Wildwood Convention Center served as headquarters for team members during the 3-day training period.*



*Task force members arrive on scene and make last-minute preparations.*



*Heavy equipment is unloaded for use in the training evolutions.*





*Canine Specialist takes a breather after locating five “victims.”*



*Aerial ladder view of USAR training site at abandoned concrete factory outside of Wildwood.*



*State Trooper Sergeant Dan Mitten (left) discusses training with Task Force Leader Jim Riley (right). Sergeant Mitten is the liaison between USAR and the New Jersey State Police’s Office of Emergency Management.*



*Team Leader Jim Riley (right) gets interviewed by a New Jersey Network news team.*



*Team member attempts to make high angle rescue of “victim.”*

# CONNECTIV Donates Smoke Detectors to South Jersey FDs



*Over the course of the last two years, the CONECTIV power company's Emergency Services Partnership Program has supported the paid and volunteer emergency services personnel of New Jersey by promoting volunteer recruitment, supporting the firemen's conventions and providing thousands of smoke detectors to South Jersey Fire Departments for distribution to the needy at no charge.*

*The above photo was taken at a Press Conference held at the Atlantic County Fire Training Academy on October 15, 2002. At the press conference, CONECTIV representatives delivered 2,500 smoke detectors to Fire Chiefs whose departments are situated within the CONECTIV service area.*

## FEMA/USFA Grant Awards Largest in Two-Year History

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) recently announced the largest number of grant awards in the two year history of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The 11th round of grant awards provided \$42 million 734 fire departments. The funds will be used by the nation's firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, improve firefighter health and safety programs, purchase new fire apparatus, enhance EMS programs, and support fire prevention and safety programs. FEMA and USFA expect that by the end of 2002,

a total of at least 5500 grants totalling \$360 million will have been distributed to enhance fire and EMS service delivery nationwide. The magnitude of these grants should encourage fire departments that have not yet applied for grants to do so during the upcoming year.

It's important to note that the Assistance to Firefighters grant program has been designed so a specialized grant writer is not required. A great deal of grant writing assistance is being provided by FEMA/USFA, and much of it is available on their excellent website. Consequently, any reasonably intelligent fire department member with basic keyboard skills should be able to compose a grant application that is clear

and to the point. By using common sense, writing in terms firefighters can understand, and explaining clearly how a grant can help achieve your stated goals, existing fire department personnel should be capable of writing an application that has a very high probability of being approved.

Don't sell your fire department and its members short by neglecting to apply for a grant in the next round because you're not confident about your grant writing abilities. You CAN write a successful application, as thousands of firefighters have already done. Check out the USFA website at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) for lots of user-friendly help in getting started!

## ***Reporting the Right Incidents***

*by Andy Fritz and Heather Puskar*

Many questions have been raised concerning Incident Types when documenting NFIRS 5.0 incidents. When reporting an incident, it's very important to choose the incident type that describes what you found when you arrived on the scene, **NOT** the incident type to which you were dispatched. Here are some examples:

1) Your department is dispatched to a reported building fire. The first arriving unit finds a contained cooking fire. The proper incident type code should identify the cooking fire "113", not building fire "111".

2) Your department is dispatched to investigate an odor of smoke in a dwelling. The first arriving unit finds a working fire in the basement. The incident type is a "111" building fire, not "651" smoke scare.

3) If you are dispatched to an incident and cancelled en route, your incident type is 611-Dispatched and cancelled en route. Your actions taken would be 93 - Cancelled en route. If, in this example, an officer from your department responded to the scene, the incident type would be what the officer found when they arrived on scene. The actions taken, in this case, would be 86-Investigate (if nothing found).

When reporting an incident type it is very important to choose the best, most descriptive incident type possible. Please refer to the N.F.I.R.S. 5.0 Handbook for a list of comprehensive codes. You will notice there are many code descriptions that end with "other". Try not to use "other" codes when choosing an incident type since these code choices are insufficiently descriptive.

**Reminder:** Incidents files should be submitted monthly, no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month.

The Division wants to hear about N.F.I.R.S. success stories. If your department has used N.F.I.R.S. data to support funding initiatives, equipment purchases, staffing, or other benefits, send us the details in writing. If your story is newsworthy, we will print it in an upcoming issue of the Division's newsletter, *Fire Focus*.

Please contact either Andy Fritz or Heather Puskar at 609-633-6324 if you have any questions, or if you'd like to request a **free** copy of the N.F.I.R.S. 5.0 Handbook or Incident Field Notes.

## ***State Fire Marshal Announces Workshops on Child-Set Fires***

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo announced today that New Jersey is one of 19 states selected to receive a special juvenile firesetting prevention and intervention workshop sponsored by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM). The workshop will take place at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ on Wednesday and Thursday, December 3rd and 4th, 2003.

"This is both a great honor, and a great opportunity to make our communities safer," said Petrillo. "The workshop will help fire services and other community services work together to reduce juvenile firesetting." Children as young as two years of age are responsible for more than 67,000 fires every year.

To receive a workshop, which is funded through a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a community must organize an interdisciplinary team including representatives from fire investigation, law enforcement, mental health, education and social services. The team must commit to implementing a juvenile firesetter prevention and intervention program that coordinates existing community resources, obtains systematic data on child-set fires in their jurisdiction, and reports on progress.

For more information on the workshop, contact Program Manager Charles E. Luxton at the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, at (609) 633-6051, or e-mail: [cluxton@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:cluxton@dca.state.nj.us).

## ***National Registry of EMTs and First Responders Exams Announced***

The New Jersey Emergency Medical Technician Registry has announced the dates for upcoming basic written examinations for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). These exams are open to all qualified EMTs regardless of what state certification they hold, and will be held at Brookdale Community College (Garden State Parkway Exit 109, west one mile on County Road 520). Applicants must be 19 years of age or older and have a current EMT card less than 1 year old on the date of the test, or have completed the 24 core CEUs (refresher training) within the past 11 months.

In addition, the National Registry Exam for First Responders will also be offered on the same dates and at the same location as the basic EMT exam. This exam is open to all qualified first responders who have a current first responder card less than one year old on the date of the test.

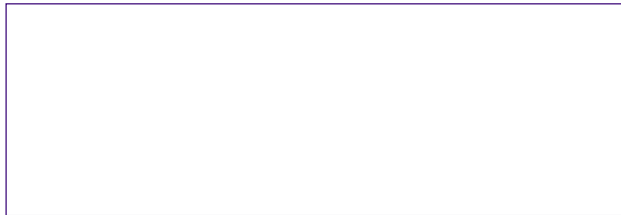
Remaining exam dates for 2003 are: June 8, August 10, October 12 and December 14. All exam dates are on Sundays. To register for either exam, contact Paul D. Roman, NJ EMT Registry, P.O. Box 202, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702, telephone 732-842-7850, or fax 732-933-9595.



## FROM:

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## New Jersey Fire Focus

*The Official Newsletter of the NJ Division of Fire Safety*

### *Inside this Issue:*

- \* *Governor McGreevey Creates Fire Service & Safety Task Force*
- \* *Division Mulls Changes in Nightclub Safety Regulations*
- \* *WABC-TV Launches Fifth Consecutive Fire Safety/Detector Distribution Program*
- \* *When Disaster Strikes, USAR Will Be Ready!!!*
- \* *CONNECTIV Donates Smoke Detectors.... and more!*